

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04714 020920Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /078 W
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R 020848Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1452

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN PEPR KS US
SUBJ: COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S HOUSE TESTIMONY

1. PROMINENT COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR'S TESTIMONY UNDER CAPTIONS
"PRIMARY POINT OF U.S.-KOREAN POLICY IS DETERRENT OF WAR/U.S.
CONCERNED WITH NORTH KOREAN MILITARY BUILD-UP". PRESS NOTES
AMBASSADOR SAYING U.S. HOLD LARGE INTEREST IN KOREA AND "IF
UNFORTUNATE EVENTS OCCURRED" FOUR GREAT POWERS WOULD BE GREATLY
AFFECTED. RESPONDING TO QUESTION ON U.S. POLICY OBJECTIVES IN
1973-76 PERIOD, PRESS SAYS AMBASSADOR CITED (A) PREVENTION OF
WAR, (B) INCREASED SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE, THUS REDUCING AID,
AND (C) PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. PRESS REPORTED AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON MOTIVATIONS FOR
MARSHAL LAW/YUSIN AS CARRIED IN STATE 139300, BUT WITH
EXCEPTION OF TONGA ILBO ALL PAPERS ADD "THUS IT WAS INEVITABLE"
THAT YUSIN SYSTEM DEVELOPED. AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY SAID U.S.
DID NOT OPENLY CRITICIZE YUSIN BUT PRIVATELY URGED ROKG TO
REDUCE GOVERNMENT CONTROLS.

3. AMBASSADOR IS QUOTED "ROKG SEEMS TO BE WILLING TO
COMPROMISE IN LOBBYING INVESTIGATION WITHIN SCOPE OF
VIENNA CONVENTION". PRESS REPORTS AMBASSADOR CONCURRED
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IN POSITION OF DEPSEC CHRISTOPHER REGARDING KIM DONG-JO
AND EFFECT ON DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY PRIVILEGE. SELECTED
PAPERS REPORT AMBASSADOR SAID HE "HAD NOT SEEN ANY
INTELLIGENCE REPORT WHICH SAID KIM DONG-JO DISTRIBUTED
CASH TO U.S. CONGRESSMEN".

4. ONLY CHOSUN ILBO REPORTS AS FOLLOWS: "COMMENTING

ON THE SCANDAL, IT WAS AN INDISCREET ACT FOR KOREANS
TO GIVE CASH OR OTHER VALUABLE GIFTS TO U.S. CONGRESSMEN
TO BUY INFLUENCE AND 'ESPECIALLY THE ACTIVITIES OF REP.
ROW CHIN-HWAN TOWARD THE U.S. WAS UNPRODUCTIVE AND
DISTRUCTIVE, NOT ONLY FOR U.S. CONGRESSMEN BUT FOR THE
INTEREST OF KOREA AS WELL'." NOTE: ASSEMBLYMAN ROW
CALLED ON CHARGE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 2 TO VOICE HIS DISAPPOINTMENT
AT REPORTED CHARACTERIZATION OF HIS ACTIVITIES BY AMBASSADOR
SNEIDER, NOTING HE HAD ALWAYS ACTED IN THE BEST INTERESTS
OF U.S.-ROK RELATIONS, HAD BROKEN NO LAWS, AND THOUGHT
AMBASSADOR SNEIDER WAS WELL AWARE OF ABOVE.

5. NO COMMENTARIES.
STERN

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Message Attributes

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